

10/26/99



APESANAHKWAT

Tribe Grieves Loss of Another Tribal Leader

Fellow Menominee's,

Once again we have lost one of our Leaders. Former 5 time Tribal Chairperson Lucille B. Chapman passed on Sunday, October 24, 1999, after a long and courageous struggle with diabetes and cancer.

It was Lucille Chapman who created Class III Indian Gaming as we know it today. Back in 1987, under her leadership, we became the first casino in Indian Country. Today tribes everywhere enjoy the prosperity and quality of life equal to most middle class Americans because of gaming.

Lucille was also our first Menominee woman to be elected to the position of Chairman and I had the pleasure of serving as her Vice-Chairman in 1981. I want to express my condolences to the family, especially her husband, Chappy, and her children. Her funeral services will be held on Wednesday,

October 27, 1999, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Keshena.

It is also election time and while I did not intend to seek another term in office, I am compelled to finish the **Kenosha Casino Project** and hopefully bring it to fruition. You know fellow Menominees, that this project lay idle for 7 or 8 years until Wendell Askenette, Eugene Caldwell, and I were elected 3 years ago. We basically resurrected the project and brought it to the brink of success. We have two more obstacles to overcome before we're home free; those being the State whom we believe is supportive and the Federal Government (BIA). But make no mistake...this is and will continue to get more difficult to get through but I believe it is possible. We have made tremendous strides in getting to this point. We won the referendum in the City of Kenosha and well as the Constitutional amendment here at home in order to move it along.

I don't know if everyone understands how important the project is to the Menominee People. It will mean we can send our children to college anywhere in the country with benefits that would take care of their tuition, housing, and other expenses so they can concentrate on their education without worrying about bills as they do now. It also means that the ever rising costs of health care can be met and all of our people can receive quality health care, whether they live here or anywhere off the reservation. That's not the case now! It also means we can provide home ownership for every adult family living here on the reservation. We can't do that now.

It also would be required to pay you and every tribal member 30% of the net revenue from the project for the life of the project. Just think of how our lives can be enriched in so many ways, if we can get it done. I need your support to do that.

We've also been successful in negotiating a settlement with the US Government for \$32 million. I want you to know that I will be supporting a plan that will give you about 58% or a \$1,999.00 per capita payment of these funds. This amount would mean it is nontaxable and okay for SSI and other fixed income recipients to receive it without being penalized. We are doing every thing possible to get the money from the US Government so that we can get it to you.

There are many other things that we've accomplished these past three years like eliminating lease payments by tribal members to live on their own land. But there is still much to be done that's why I'm asking you to support my candidacy as well as Wendell Askenette and Eugene Caldwell. These legislators have brought stability and integrity to the whole council. If we're to finish what we've got on the table, it's going to take these kinds of legislators to get the job done. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Apesanahkwat
Honorable Tribal Chairman